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C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 004428

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: BAGHDAD PROVINCIAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN CHANGES
PARTIES, LEAVES COUNCIL FOR ATTEMPT AT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Classified By: POLITICAL COUNSELOR ROBERT FORD FOR REASONS
1.4 (B) AND (D).

1. (C) Mazin Makia, Chairman of the Baghdad Provincial Council (BPC) has left the Da'wa Party and joined the National Democratic Alliance Party (NDAP). Makia has been the BPC Chairman since the formation of the council and also serves as Provincial Reconstruction and Development Committee (PRDC) Chairman. Mazin is changing parties in pursuit of a seat in the next National Assembly.

2. (C) Mazin, a Shia, told PolOff he changed parties after deciding to seek election to the National Assembly in December. He told PolOff he was thankful for his past relationship with Da'wa but it was time to move to a party that better represented his viewpoint. Mazin said the NDAP represents a coalition of parties and beliefs. However, Mazin also admitted he was lured to the new party by the offer of the number two position behind the party chairman. Chairman of the NDAP is Abid Faisel Al-Sehalny, a secular Shia and member of the National Assembly.

3. (C) Mazin is running for the National Assembly with hopes of winning a seat from Baghdad. He would like to become a member of any committee that deals with issues that impact provincial governments. He feels his experience in local government and understanding of provincial politics will allow him better represent the people of Baghdad and of the nation.

4. (C) If elected, his departure from the BPC will create an immediate opening in the chairmanship of BPC and PRDC. Mazin feels there are several qualified individuals to assume his positions on the BPC but refused to speculate on whom the council may choose. He said his exit would have little impact on the performance of the BPC. Mazin said the council would be in good hands because of the quality of people serving in the organization. However, he also stated that should he lose election to the assembly he would still maintain his seat on the BPC, just not as a member of the Da'wa Party.

5. (C) COMMENT: Mazin's defection from the Da'wa Party is a blow to the party's prestige and influence in local Baghdad politics. He has provided steady direction on the BPC during his tenure and a calming influence and counterweight to the brash, harsh demeanor of the governor. His easy accessibility has been an asset in developing strong relations between the council and coalition forces. His departure will leave a void in local Baghdad politics but, if elected, would provide a capable new member to the next assembly. END COMMENT.
Satterfield